

**AGENDA
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:

2. SELECTMEN MINUTES: December 12, 2011, December 12, 2011 Executive Session

3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

A. Cable Television Contract Renewal

B. WilliNet Annual Report (Deborah Dane)

C. 2012 Town Election Calendar – Set Dates and Times for Election and Annual Town Meeting

D. Massachusetts Solar Net-Metering Program Letter of Support

E. Population Estimates for Seasonal Liquor Licenses 2012

F. Special Municipal Employee Designation – Northern Berkshire Industrial Park and Development Corporation

G. Intermunicipal Agreement for Veterans Services – Florida and Clarksburg

H. Water and Sewer Warrant - \$280,058.90

I. Set Public Hearing Date and Time for an Application from Taewa Inc., d/b/a Thai Garden, 27 Spring St. for a Change of Manager, New Stockholder, Transfer of Stock, and Change in Board of Directors. (Jonathan Sabin) (January 23, 2012, 7:05 p.m.)

4. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

5. PETITIONER'S REQUEST:

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

7. ADJOURN:

Next Selectmen's meeting is Monday, January 23, 2012 – 7 p.m.

**MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

Present: Thomas E. Sheldon, Chairman, Jane B. Allen, Ronald Turbin, David A. Rempell, Tom Costley

Others Present: John Mucha, Anne Skinner, Mary Kavanaugh, Debbie Dane, Marge Chamberlain, Cathy Yamamoto, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Mr. Sheldon noted the December closing of the Women's Exchange. The Women's Exchange was a source for clothing for many and its presence will be missed in Williamstown. Mr. Sheldon also noted the retirement of Finance Director Charles St. John who served Williamstown for many years. He will be moving on to pursue other opportunities and the Board wishes him well. Ms. Allen noted the January 5th passing of Richard Hunter at the age of 90. Mr. Hunter served on the first Williamstown Board of Selectmen for many years. Ms. Allen offered sympathy to his family on behalf of the Board.
- 2. SELECTMEN MINUTES:** December 12, 2011 Executive Session – Mr. Sheldon noted in the December 12, 2011 regular minutes that there should have been a separate motion for Olympic Pizza in 3B as to a unanimous vote, where there was a 4-1-0 vote in the motion for Hobson's Choice. He also noted a typo in paragraph two, line 8 in 3B. Mr. Turbin moved to approve the December 12, 2011, minutes with corrections. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the December 12, 2011, Executive Session minutes. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:**
 - A. Cable Television Contract Renewal –** Cable Advisory Committee Chairman Anne Skinner said the suggested Cable Television renewal contract is based on the existing contract but has significant changes. The contract's term is ten years but there is a new provision that if the state or federal government passes a law that eliminates contracts with individual towns in favor of a statewide model, the contract may be open to renegotiation. The franchise fee that provides income to WillNet will gradually increase from the current 4% to 5%. In addition, WillNet will receive \$70,000 for capital improvements; the list of origination sites, places from which we can broadcast live, has been updated to reflect changes in buildings at the College and other locations including the new Williamstown Youth Center. Ms. Skinner said that Town Counsel has reviewed the contract and has determined that it meets legal requirements. Ms. Skinner thanked Cable Advisory Committee members Mary Kavanaugh, Jeff Kurpaska, and Town Manager Peter Fohlin for their efforts. Ms. Skinner also acknowledged Time Warner Cable representative John Mucha. Ms. Allen moved to recommend the Board sign the contract renewal as presented. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The contract renewal agreement dated 9th day of January, 2012, is located in the Town Manager's office.

B. WilliNet Annual Report – WilliNet’s Executive Director Deborah Dane, presented WilliNet’s annual report as part of their operating agreement with the Town. She said tonight’s signing of the License Agreement is terrific news for WilliNet. She thanked the Cable Advisory Committee, the Selectmen and the Town Manager as well as WilliNet’s Chairman of the Board, Marge Chamberlain. Ms. Dane said WilliNet Municipal meetings are on Channel 16. She said this year they endeavored to be responsive to community events and needs such as “The Spruces After Irene: A Community Responds”; FEMA LIVE call-in; Affordable Housing In Our Backyard” with Jane Allen, Charles Bonenti and others; SEE FUND LIVE Telethon in February (the program helped them double their goal); Williamstown Historical Museum/HLH – hosted interview programs and lecture series partnership; Biomass Conservation/recorded Williams College Panels; and for the second year in a row The Candidates Speak. Ms. Dane spoke about the programming. She said that over 100 non-profit organizations utilize the WilliBoard for announcements. She said the Time Warner Cable License Agreement/Contract Renewal will offer some exciting opportunities with new origination sites such as the John Allen Field at Mount Greylock High School, Images Cinema, Town Hall and the new Williamstown Youth Center and some capital improvements will make navigation much easier to view meetings through the WilliNet website (Willinet.org) She said their Production Manager David Finer has just completed his second year, she has gone to full-time and Technical Director Rick Lescarbeau continues to do a terrific job as very-part-time. She recognized WilliNet’s dedicated volunteers and welcomed a new Board member Justin Adkins who brings expertise in social media, a younger perspective and who has Williams College involvement. Ms. Dane said they will upgrade their cameras and they look forward to fun opportunities such as cable casting and sports announcing at Mount Greylock High School. The Selectmen thanked Debbie for her report.

C. 2012 Town Election Calendar – Set Dates and Times for Elections and Annual Town Meeting - Mr. Rempell moved to set the dates and times at the Williamstown Elementary School for the Annual Town Elections and Annual Town Meetings for May 8, 2012, from 7am – 8pm and May 15, 2012, at 7 p.m. respectively. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Massachusetts Solar Net-Metering Program Letter of Support – Mr. Turbin moved the Board sign the Massachusetts Solar Net-Metering Program Letter of Support. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (Attachment A)

E. Population Estimates for Seasonal Liquor Licenses 2012 – No Action was taken.

F. Special Municipal Employee Designation – Northern Berkshire Industrial Park and Development Corporation (NBIPCD) – With Town Counsel Brian Riley’s prior approval Ms. Allen moved to adopt the following language: “The Northern Berkshire Industrial Park and Development Corporation (Mass Acts 1985, Chapter 758) is a regional municipal entity and The Town of Williamstown is a member of the region. For the purposes of chapter two hundred and sixty-eight A, any person who performs professional services for the Northern Berkshire Industrial Park and Development Corporation (Mass Acts 1985, Chapter 758) on a part-time, intermittent or consultant basis, such as those of architect, attorney, accountant, engineer, planner, or construction, financial, real estate or traffic expert, is designated and shall be considered a special

municipal employee.” Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Fohlin will respond to NBIPDC’s Chairman Tom Holland’s request with letter and a copy of the approved minutes. (Attachment B)

G. Intermunicipal Agreement for Veterans Services – Florida and Clarksburg – Mr. Fohlin explained that North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown currently share Veteran’s Officer (VSO) Steve Roy who is doing an excellent job. Massachusetts General Law requires every community have a VSO who is a veteran. It is almost impossible for the towns of Florida and Clarksburg to find such a person and their needs for a VSO are too few for them to hire someone. This Agreement would allow Mr. Roy to see veterans from the towns of Florida and Clarksburg in any of the three offices that he works out of and the towns would be charged on an hourly rate. Mr. Roy would also be able to visit homebound veterans in those towns as well. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the agreements as presented for the Chairman’s signature. Mr. Costley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. (Attachment C and D)

H. Water and Sewer Warrant - \$280,058.90 – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$280,058.90. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

I. Set Public Hearing Date and Time for an Application from Taewa Inc., d/b/a Thai Garden, 27 Spring St. for a Change of Manager, New Stockholder, Transfer of Stock, and Change in Board of Directors. Ms. Allen moved to set a public hearing for an application from Taewa Inc., d/b/a Thai Garden, 27 Spring St. for a Change of Manager, New Stockholder, Transfer of Stock, and Change in Board of Directors on January 23, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT: see attached and at www.williamstown.net

Mr. Sheldon asked Mr. Fohlin to report on a letter to the Board from the Williamstown Police Association requesting that the Town conduct a study to look into building a new police station. Mr. Fohlin said that the Town has discussed the need for a new police station for many years but when the economy went south two years ago building projects were put on hold. He said a new station was discussed last year but was put on hold when the Milne Library geared up for an expansion. That plan has been delayed. Mr. Fohlin said building the new station on the south side of Town Hall where his office is would solve two problems by first creating a new police station and second by expanding the meeting room. He said the 2013 Town budget will include a proposal to set aside \$143,000 for engineering and architectural expenses to get the project started.

5. PETITIONER’S REQUEST: None

6. OTHER BUSINESS: Affordable Housing Committee Chairman Cathy Yamamoto updated the Board and thanked Mr. Fohlin for all his hard work. At this time the Affordable Housing Committee is looking at what land the town has available. They are looking at expansion of both Spring Meadow and Proprietor’s Field housing, viable development of Photec and old town garage sites and disaster replacement housing. Selectmen asked what they could do to assist the committee. Ms. Yamamoto said in addition to approving the RFPs that would come up, their endorsement of the

committee's plans will be needed. She added that as a town, we all have a responsibility to solve the lack of affordable housing issue. Mr. Sheldon thanked Ms. Yamamoto for the update and invited her to come back when she had more news to share.

7. ADJOURN: Mr. Costley moved to adjourn. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen's meeting is Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
